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See previous “Documents on the Web” at  
<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/intrelations/webalert/default.htm>

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### Africa

#### ♦ CHINA’S INFLUENCE IN AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES

by Peter Brookes and Ji Hye Shin

Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #1916, Feb. 22, 2006, 9 p.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/bg1916.cfm>

“In recent years, Beijing has identified the African continent as an area of significant economic and strategic interest. America and its allies and friends are finding that their vision of a prosperous Africa governed by democracies that respect human rights and the rule of law and that embrace free markets is being challenged by the escalating Chinese influence in Africa.”

### Asia

#### ♦ INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS

K. Alan Kronstadt, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Feb. 9, 2006, 19 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61525.pdf>

"Today, the Bush Administration vows to 'help India become a major world power in the 21st century,' and U.S.-India relations are conducted under the rubric of three major 'dialogue' areas: strategic (including global issues and defense), economic (including trade, finance, commerce, and environment), and energy."

#### ◆ PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

K. Alan Kronstadt, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Feb. 10, 2006, 19 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61524.pdf>

"A stable, democratic, economically thriving Pakistan is considered vital to U.S. interests in Asia. Key U.S. concerns regarding Pakistan include regional terrorism; Pakistan-Afghanistan relations; weapons proliferation; the ongoing Kashmir problem and Pakistan-India tensions; human rights protection; and economic development. A U.S.-Pakistan relationship marked by periods of both cooperation and discord was transformed by the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and the ensuing enlistment of Pakistan as a pivotal ally in U.S.-led counterterrorism efforts."

### Defense

#### ◆ NATIONAL MILITARY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE WAR ON TERRORISM

U.S. Department of Defense, Feb. 6, 2006, 40 p.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/2006-01-25-Strategic-Plan.pdf>

"The NMSP-WOT constitutes the comprehensive military plan to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) for the Armed Forces of the United States. This document reflects the lessons of the first four years of the Global War on Terrorism, including the findings and recommendations of the 9-11 Commission and a rigorous examination within the Department of Defense (DoD), personally led by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

#### ◆ WAR POWERS RESOLUTION: PRESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE

Richard F. Grimmett, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Feb. 14, 2006, 19 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/62648.pdf>

"The purpose of the War Powers Resolution (P.L. 93-148, passed over President Nixon's veto on November 7, 1973) is to ensure that Congress and the President share in making decisions that may get the U.S. involved in hostilities."

### Foreign Aid

#### ◆ U.S. AID TO THE PALESTINIANS

Jeremy M. Sharp, Middle East Policy Analyst, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Feb. 2, 2006, 6 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/60396.pdf>

"With the recent success of Hamas at the polls, many observers have cautioned that continued foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) may be at risk due to Hamas' commitment to the destruction of the state of Israel and its designation as a terrorist group by the United States. Currently, the Palestinians are the largest per capita recipients of foreign aid worldwide and, with a shattered economy, are completely dependent on external support to meet basic needs. Without Western aid, a Hamas-led government may be forced to rely completely on donations from wealthy Arab Gulf states or from Iran. On the other hand, the prospect of losing U.S. and European aid may force Hamas to tone down its radical views and accept Israel's right to exist. In

the meantime, foreign donors have been cautious, demanding that Hamas renounce the use of violence and recognize Israel while withholding a complete cessation of aid programs pending the formation of a new Palestinian government. This report will be updated as events warrant.”

## **Middle East**

### **◆ IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

Sharon Squassoni, Specialist in National Defense, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division  
Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, CRS Report for Congress, Updated Feb. 28, 2006, 6 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/62749.pdf>

“International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections since 2003 have revealed almost two decades’ worth of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran, including uranium enrichment and plutonium separation efforts. Iran’s actions to conceal and restrict access for IAEA inspectors have eroded international confidence in Iran’s peaceful intentions. Iran agreed in 2003 to suspend its enrichment and reprocessing activities in exchange for promises of assistance from Germany, France, and the UK (EU-3), but negotiations broke down in August 2005. On September 24, 2005, the IAEA Board of Governors found Iran to be in noncompliance with its Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards agreement (GOV/2005/77). Following Iran’s decision to resume enrichment research and development in January 2006, the IAEA Board voted (GOV/2006/14) on February 4 to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council. Many expect the Security Council to take up the issue in March, following the next Board meeting on March 6.”

### **◆ SAUDI ARABIA: CURRENT ISSUES AND U.S. RELATIONS**

Alfred B. Prados, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division  
Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Feb. 24, 2006, 19 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/62644.pdf>

“In its final report, released on July 23, 2004, the U.S. National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) described Saudi Arabia as having been ‘a problematic ally in combating Islamic extremism,’ while noting that Saudi cooperation has improved, especially since further terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia beginning in May 2003... Other principal issues of bilateral interest include security in the post-war Gulf region, the Saudi position on the Arab-Israeli conflict, arms transfers to Saudi Arabia, Saudi external aid programs, bilateral trade relationships and oil production, and Saudi policies involving human rights and democracy.”

## **Terrorism**

### **◆ TERRORISM AND NATIONAL SECURITY: ISSUES AND TRENDS**

Raphael Perl, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division  
Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service, Issue Brief, Updated Feb. 2, 2006, 19 p.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61519.pdf>

“This issue brief examines international terrorist actions and threats and the U.S. policy response. As the 9/11 Commission report released on July 19, 2004, concludes, the United States needs to use all tools at its disposal, including diplomacy, international cooperation, and constructive engagement to economic sanctions, covert action, physical security enhancement, and military force.”

**Visit the IRC website at**

**<http://france.usembassy.gov/irc/default.htm>**

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